

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 DODE-00 L-03 INT-08 PA-04 PRS-01

USIE-00 SS-20 SSO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CG-00 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DLOS-06

H-03 INRE-00 /105 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, BU, US

SUBJ: SEIZURE OF BULGARIAN FISHING VESSEL

ROME FOR US DELEGATION TO ICNAF

1. AT 0545 EDT JANUARY 26 COAST GUARD SEIZED BULGARIAN FISHING TRAWLER "LIMOZA" FOR ILLEGALLY FISHING WITHIN NINE-MILE CONTIGUOUS FISHERIES ZONE ADJACENT TO US TERRITORIAL WATERS OFF NEW JERSEY. ILLEGAL FISHING ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED AT 39 DEGREES 27 MINUTES N 74 DEGREES 05 MINUTES W, 20450 YARDS FROM SHORE. VESSEL NOW BEING TAKEN TO GOVERNOR'S ISLAND IN NEW YORK WHERE IT IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT 1500 EDT JANUARY 26.

2. YOU SHOULD PASS ABOVE INFORMATION ASAP TO APPROPRIATE MFA OFFICIALS. IN DOING SO, YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT FISHING BY FOREIGN VESSELS WITHIN 9-MILE CONTIGUOUS ZONE

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IS ILLEGAL UNDER PUBLIC LAW 88308 AS AMENDED. YOU SHOULD

NOTE THAT CASE WILL BE EXAMINED BY US ATTORNEY IN NEW YORK AND, IF HE DEEMS IT JUSTIFIED, WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE A FEDERAL COURT.

3. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT ABOVE INFORMATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO BULGARIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND THE EMBASSY ADVISED THAT IT SHOULD RETAIN AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT THE SHIP AND ITS MASTER. THE EMBASSY HAS ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR AN EMBASSY OR OTHER BULGARIAN

OFFICIAL IN THE US TO BOARD THE VESSEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ITS ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK.

4. YOU SHOULD NOTE OUR REGRET THAT THIS INCIDENT HAS OCCURRED, POINTING OUT THAT LAW ON ILLEGAL FISHING DOES NOT PERMIT ANY DISCRETION IN ITS ENFORCEMENT. YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT US FISHERMEN HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN ANGERED BY INROADS OF FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS AND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS SEIZURES IN THE PAST, INCLUDING THOSE OF SOVIET, WEST GERMAN, AND JAPANESE VESSELS.

5. IF BULGARIANS ASK ABOUT POSSIBLE PENALTIES, YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THEY WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO GET BEST INFORMATION FROM AMERICAN ATTORNEY THEY RETAIN.

6. WE DO NOT PLAN ANY PRESS RELEASE ON INCIDENT, BUT IF QUESTIONED, WILL RESPOND WITH FACTS IN PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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